



## The Farmington Canal Rail-to-Trail Association

940 Whitney Avenue  
Hamden, CT 06517

February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Testimony of Lisa Fernandez,  
President, FCRTTA;  
Member Pro-Tem, CT Greenways Council;  
Member, East Coast Greenway Trail Council

SB 502 An Act Concerning Bicycle Safety and Transportation Options

Dear Chairs and Members of the General Assembly Transportation Committee:

On behalf of FCRTTA members and Board of Directors, I support SB 502.

FCRTTA has advocated to the development of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail since before a single section had been built, and far before this popular non-motorized use linear park got a name. From our founding vision back in the late 1980s, our dream has become (mostly) reality and with it has come a surge in utilitarian and recreational biking. A derogatory moniker for CT is the "pass-through state." Its highways are important, but CT can become a destination for cycling too, with its diverse natural assets including a long shoreline, mountainous rolling uplands in the NW, and pastoral vistas in the NE. SB 502 will help bring the cycling infrastructure along the surface roads in those areas up to par and even competitive with the norms and guidelines followed by all the states that surround us.

The proposed statutes in SB 502, especially funding for cycling infrastructure and incorporating the Complete Streets Statutory Requirements to the Highway Design Manual, will bring CT closer in line with its neighbor states. For CT to remain a competitive destination for biking and walking enthusiasts, SB 502 is critical.

Thank you.

Lisa Fernandez

Growing a heritage greenway for open space, biking and walking from the  
Long Island Sound into Massachusetts.  
[www.farmingtoncanalgreenway.org](http://www.farmingtoncanalgreenway.org)